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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



THE CRISIS
USSR/CUBA

Information as of D600

8 November 1962

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PREPARED FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

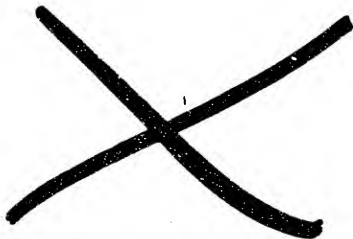
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BLOC REACTION

Soviet propaganda continues to accuse the United States of attempting to evade "its commitments" while the Soviet Union scrupulously fulfills its own obligations.

In demonstration of Soviet carry-through on the agreement, a TASS dispatch from New York alleges that the "launching pads and powerful rockets have already been dismantled" and notes that the weapons are already being shipped out. The dispatch claims that Moscow has agreed to visual inspection of the ships that are carrying the weapons on the open sea "by an appropriate international organ."

In contrast, the dispatch charges the United States not only with refusing to "guarantee and firmly respect Cuba's sovereignty" but with advancing new demands that "look like ultimatums." Attempting to raise apprehension among neutrals that the tensions, which have subsided, might be revived, TASS claims that such a policy on the part of the US is "fraught with great danger."



Moscow is also stepping up its efforts to present the United States and the UN with a "fait accompli" which will erase the need for any inspection procedures other than the observation on the high seas of the ships which are carrying missiles back to the Soviet Union.

In New York, the Soviet delegation has taken the line that Red Cross inspection can last only until withdrawal of the missiles is completed, which they now estimate will be this Saturday. Since the Red Cross now insists that Cuba

as well as the US and the USSR agree to its inspection of incoming cargoes, withdrawal of the missiles will be completed even before this inspection can go into effect. Havana has been asked by the UN for its agreement, but no response has been received.

The Soviet Union is continuing its attempts to restrict the list of offensive weapons to missiles. It is now arguing that the quarantine proclamation--which included jet bombers as offensive weapons--was an illegal act and therefore that the list of offensive weapons which it contains is not binding.

In a written statement--read to a member of the US delegation in New York--concerning US observation on the open sea of the ships carrying missiles back to the Soviet Union, Moscow has indicated its willingness to allow observation by helicopters of the ships if bad weather makes this necessary.

Communist China's foreign minister, speaking at a reception given yesterday in Peiping by the Soviet Ambassador, pointedly urged his listeners to avoid any attitude of "disgrace, concession, sacrificing sovereignty, and conniving with aggression." Hong Kong Communist newspapers are making even more pointed statements about the Soviet backdown on Cuba than the mainland press. One newspaper recalled that Chamberlain did not last long after his 1938 Munich deal, implying that a cowardly Khrushchev would meet the same fate.

